**LACASSE & ASSOCIATES***PROFESSIONAL PATENT SERVICES*

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E-Mail: patserv@lacasse-patents.com**CONFIDENTIAL
FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET****DATE SENT:** July 28, 2003**DELIVER TO:**

Name: Examiner David Lee Lewis
Company: USPTO Group Art Unit 2673
Phone No: 703-306-3026
Fax No: 703-872-9315

FROM: Randy W. Lacasse**SERIAL NO.:** 09/788,636**OUR DOCKET:** ARC920000017US1

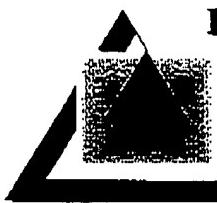
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PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE & RETURNX REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATIONDOCKET: ARC920000017US1SERIAL NO.: 09/788,636IN RE APPL. OF: KnopfTITLE: COLLABORATIVE TABLET COMPUTER

PGS OF SPEC: _____ PGS OF CLAIMS: _____ PGS OF DRAWINGS: _____

AGENTS: Randy W. LacasseTOTAL CHARGES: \$0.00Jaclyn A. SchadeRamraj Soundararajan

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E-Mail: patserv@lacasse-patents.com**CONFIDENTIAL
FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET****DATE SENT:** August 29, 2003**DELIVER TO:**Name: Examiner David LewisCompany: USPTO Group Art Unit 2673Phone No: 703-306-3026Fax No: 703-308-6606**FROM:** Randy W. Lacasse**SERIAL NO.:** 09/788/636**OUR DOCKET:** ARC920000017US1

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PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE & RETURNX **AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL****DOCKET:** ARC920000017US1**SERIAL NO.:** 09/788,636**IN RE APPL. OF:** Knopf**TITLE:** COLLABORATIVE TABLET COMPUTER**AGENTS:** Randy W. Lacasse**TOTAL CHARGES:** \$0.00Jaclyn A. SchadeRamraj Soundararajan

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7-28-03**ARC920000017US1
09/788,636

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Bush

In re Application of: Eric Andrew Knopf

Serial No.: 09/788,636

Group Art Unit: 2673

Filed: 2/21/2001

Examiner: David Lee Lewis

Title: **COLLABORATIVE TABLET COMPUTER****REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant's representative would like to thank the examiner for the time spent discussing the claims and prior art applied to the claims of the present invention.

Summarizing the discussion (in-depth argument follows):

Applicant's representative presented the argument that the main reference Latocha fails to disclose or even suggest the claimed removal of a frame (exposable movable exterior sides) to expose the display edge for abutment. Not only does Latocha not suggest this claimed feature, there would have been no motivation to have looked to modify Latocha, as Latocha's invention has no frame to remove. The secondary reference Ohgami et al. was added to show support for covering/uncovering connection ports. Port covers are well known, however, Ohgami et al., similar to Latocha, do not disclose or suggest removal of a frame to expose the display for abutment. Ohgami et al. have a frame, but it is not removed or moved in any way. As neither reference discloses or suggests removal of the display frame (exposable movable exterior sides) for abutment of a display to another display, together they cannot provide or suggest the claimed feature. As an aside, Ohgami's port protector only enables insertion of a portable media object and thus does not provide the required ability to mate two display devices even when

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exposed (uncovered). Thus, Ohgami's port cover does not provide the missing function from the Latocha reference.

The suggestion to modify and combine references for the purposes of a 35 USC 103 rejection must come from the references themselves. Absent this, the required *prima facia* case of obviousness has not been established.

As the combination of Latocha et al. and Ohgami does not provide the claimed elements of the outstanding claims of the present invention and a *prima facia* case of obviousness has not been established, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be removed under reconsideration and the remaining claims passed to allowance with allowed claim 43.

Detailed argument:

One or more sections on a housing of a portable computing device are selectively removed or folded away, thereby exposing a free edge of a computing display screen as well as electrical connectors and structural connectors. Two or more such devices are docked utilizing the exposed connectors such that the exposed screen edges abut. Upon docking, the devices recognize the new configuration and re-map the desktop area of the display into a single display for the combined device.

One embodiment of the present invention allows either, or both, the top edge or side edge of the housing to be simply pivoted underneath the device to expose the edge of the device screen. Electrical and structural connectors are exposed as well. The edges of the device are sharply angled, allowing the edge of the device to pivot under itself without adding any substantial thickness to the device. The two folding side sections are split at a 45-degree angle, allowing for independent rotation of the sections, while still providing the maximum potential protection to the screen edge. When one side is folded down, the other edge extends beyond the